

1 1. In a remote data mirroring arrangement of data storage systems, a method of
 2 operating a data storage system comprises:
 3 determining that storage traffic is to be transferred between the data storage system
 4 and a remote data storage system to which the data storage system is coupled by an IP
 5 network in accordance with a remote data service application; and
 6 enabling transfer of the storage traffic between the data storage system and the remote
 7 data storage system over the IP network using a native connection to the IP network.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the IP network is the Internet.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the IP network is a private network.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling comprises using a socket interface to
 2 interface an operation of the remote data service to TCP/IP protocols.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the native connection comprises TCP/IP over Gigabit
 2 Ethernet

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the socket interface is split across two processors,
 2 with a first socket relay residing on a first processor and a second socket relay residing on a
 3 second processor.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first socket relay and remote data service
 2 application operation conform to a common interface.

1 8. The method of claim 4, wherein enabling further comprises using the socket interface
 2 to create a socket from which the native connection to the IP network is formed.

1 9. A computer program product residing on a computer-readable medium for operating
2 a data storage system in a remote data mirroring arrangement of data storage systems, the
3 computer program product comprising instructions causing a computer to:

4 determine that storage traffic is to be transferred between the data storage system and
5 a remote data storage system to which the data storage system is coupled by an IP network;
6 and

7 enable transfer of the storage traffic between the data storage system and the remote
8 data storage system over the IP network using a native connection to the IP network.

1 10. A data storage system comprising:

2 one or more storage devices;

3 a controller coupled to the one or more storage devices; and

4 wherein the controller directs local storage traffic from the data storage system to a
5 remote data storage system over an IP network using a native connection to the IP network.

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